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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONVENTION NO.
00/075,360	02/13/2002	Mei-Chiao Yeh		8873

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WHITE CHUNG
FOXCONN INTERNATIONAL, INC.
1650 MEMOREX DRIVE
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

EXAMINER

LE, TOAN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2863

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/075,360

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL

Examiner

Toan M Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mangrulkar in view of Gupta et al..

Referring to claims 1-15, Mangrulkar discloses a system and a method for monitoring machines operating at at least one shop floor (col. 14, line 33; figure 1), the system/method comprising: a plurality of information collectors linked to the machines for automatically obtaining machine-related signals (col. 4, lines 5-10) including machine status, die status, and current production information (col. 5, lines 9-14 and 19-38) and converting the machine-related signals into computer-readable information via information collectors (col. 5, lines 9-14); a monitoring computer 12 (figure 1) electrically connected to the information collectors attached to corresponding machines (figure 1) and connected to the monitoring computer 12 via a communication link (figure 1) for obtaining the computer-readable information from the information collectors (col. 4, lines 20-23); a plant network electrically connected to the monitoring computer for storing the computer-readable information collected by the monitoring computer and for storing fundamental data including machine fundamental data (col. 5, lines 42-50 and 62-65), die fundamental data, die standard status (col. 5, lines 65-67), a reference table of

die-vs-part number (col. 14, lines 36-38; figures 9 and 11), and a range of settings that an operator can select to immediately adjust operation of a die set by users (col. 10, lines 17-21); and an user interface electrically connected to the plant network for users to monitor production information (col. 7, lines 15-26; figure 1) and to illustrate a part of the information stored in the plant network (figure 4a).

Mangrulkar also discloses a method for monitoring machines operating at at least one shop floor, wherein the obtaining of the computer-readable information from the information collectors is performed by information-obtaining instructions that are stored in advance in the monitoring computer (col. 5, lines 17-25) and generating information on abnormality status of any of the machines by comparing the obtained information with the fundamental data (col. 12, lines 45-50; figure 5b) and forecasting a lifetime of a die according to obtained die status information (col. 10, lines 17-21).

Mangrulkar further discloses a procedure of operating a system for monitoring machines operating at at least one shop floor, comprising in sequence the steps of: logging into the system; set fundamental data (figure 5b); storing the data and outputting a corresponding report and ending this procedure, or further selecting real-time information; storing the data and the information and outputting a corresponding report and ending this procedure, or further inquiring desired information (figure 5b, block 66); verifying normality of the information and the data; inquiring a historical record if abnormal, or directly checking whether a schedule change is desired if normal (figure 5b, block 68); analyzing reasons if abnormal (figure 5b, block 70); if abnormal, storing the information, the data and the reasons and outputting a corresponding report and ending the procedure, or checking whether a schedule change is desired (figure 5b, block

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72), ending the procedure if no changing or no reschedule is desired (figure 5b, block 74); determining whether manually inputting information of schedule change if changing or rescheduling is desired (figure 5b, blocks 74 and 66), manually inputting and storing the information and outputting a corresponding report and ending the procedure if manual input is desired, or selecting and storing standard schedule if manual input is undesired; and outputting a report reflecting corresponding information and ending the procedure (figure 5b).

Mangrulkar does not teach a database electrically connected to the monitoring computer for storing the computer-readable information collected by the monitoring computer and for storing fundamental data set by users and a graphical user interface, which has icons for viewing the machines and viewing real-time information on the machines or on dies, electrically connected to the database for users to monitor production information.

Gupta et al. disclose a system and method for monitoring machines operating at at least one shop floor comprising a database 30 (figure 1A) electrically connected to the monitoring computer 32 (figure 1A) for storing the computer-readable information collected by the monitoring computer and for storing fundamental data set by users (col. 12, lines 14-29) and a graphical user interface (col. 12, lines 29-32), which has icons for viewing the machines and viewing real-time information on the machines or on dies, electrically connected to the database for users to monitor production information (col. 13, lines 26-44).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method described by Mangrulkar by adding a database to the plant network and a graphical user interface to the database taught by Gupta et al. to allow a user to view and update the status of machine element of the shop floor, employees to

be logged onto various machines, and data concerning the location of materials on the shop floor to be updated

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,047,579 to Schmitz	U.S. Patent No. 6,408,218 to Hallahan et al.
U.S. Patent No. 5,530,857 to Gimza	U.S. Patent No. 5,768,133 to Chen et al.
U.S. Patent No. 6,263,255 to Tan et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,467,356 to Schoch
U.S. Patent No. 6,101,857 to Fox et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,523,045 to Beatty

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan M Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (703) 308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0655.

Toan le

August 1, 2003

